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rendered by the municipality. Therefore, that they should demand some rate of assessment is unjust and unfair. There is no reason whatever that the same amount of house-tax in the case of lands which are in municipal limits and which are subject to so many other payments should be collected. I therefore move that the land tax should be very much less than and different from what it is in the case of house-tax, or no tax should be levied in the case of agricultural lands because no service is rendered."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"I beg to second it."

* The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—" Mr. President, in the amending Bill to the District Municipalities Act of 1920 we are providing for an amendment in such a manner that the rate levied on lands should be different from that on buildings. But the amendment which has now been proposed by my hon. Friend, Sir A. P. Patro, wants it to be less than the rate levied on buildings. I shall have this matter considered and have a suitable amendment introduced."

The resolution, as well as the amendment, was by leave of the House withdrawn.

PAY AND STATUS OF PANDITS AND MUNSHIS

Rao Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—" I move the resolution standing in my name—

'*This Council recommends to the Government that pandits and munshis employed in Government colleges, high schools and middle schools be given the same pay and status as college assistants, school assistants and secondary grade teachers respectively.*'

" Sir, the question of the pay, status, prospect and emoluments of these pandits teaching vernacular in high schools and colleges is one that requires sympathetic consideration at the hands of the Government. Sir, so far as their work is concerned, they take to teaching subjects which are as important as any other subjects. If a teacher takes mathematics or geography or even English, the pandit takes vernacular which he has to teach. That is a subject which the candidates have to qualify themselves, and get the proper marks to make themselves eligible for pass. The one is English educated and the other is not. The latter has to be treated as in an inferior position to the former. So far as the scales are concerned, they are lower than what is available to the corresponding teachers for any college or high school or middle school and the normal maximum does not come to the maximum of the other teachers. I do not see why there should be such a distinction unless it be that they are themselves inferior to the other teachers who deal with the other subjects. The sooner the inferiority is taken away, the better for all concerned. When I find there has been serious speeches made for the vernacularisation of the services, I really see no reason why these teachers who would be the persons who would really fit the students for discharging their duties in their mother tongue should be treated as in any way inferior to those who teach English. Sir, so far as the grades are concerned, in the high schools they do not come to anything that an S.S.L.C. gets, viz., Rs. 35–60. The maximum is only 50 and many of the pandits 12 noon. get only a definite pay and not even a scale pay. I may tell you, Sir, that somehow or other, so far as the local bodies and the Government are concerned, there is a feeling that a pandit or munshi does not require

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to be paid the same pay as an S.S.L.C. or a graduate. I think it is high time that the Chief Minister should look into the matter and see that they are placed on a footing of equality, if not of superiority, with the other teachers. Some of them are so well versed in their subjects that they bear comparison with any and are behind none so far as proficiency in the particular language is concerned. When they are so proficient I do not see any reason why that should be treated as inferiors. With these few words, I commend this resolution to the acceptance of the House."

* Rao Bahadur K. SITARAMA REDDIYAR :—" Sir, I support the resolution which has been moved by my hon. Friend from Chittoor. As one connected with the management of certain schools in one of the districts in the Presidency I know the hardships which these pandits and munshis are put to. I am alive to the fact that I am a party to this hardship, but at the same time I feel I am helpless. It is brought to my notice by some of my colleagues on the district board that if the Government do not propose to treat these pandits on a better footing why should the district board try to put them on a better footing ? There is reason in the argument; therefore I cannot do much to favour these munshis or pandits. I see in the list of appointments that these pandits and munshis start with a salary of Rs. 40 in Government schools and colleges, whereas teachers who are called school assistants and who may be placed in the same category as these pandits, get an initial salary of Rs. 75. Never mind if they do not reach the maximum in the two cadres, we must see that at least the initial pay is equal in the case of the two teachers. As was pointed out by my hon. Friend the previous speaker, there is no reason why the two cadres should be kept separate. These pandits have to undergo special training, and there are also qualifications prescribed for them. In the case, for instance, of a Tamil pandit, he is required to pass some test prescribed by the Madura Sangam and also undergo training in the Meenakshi Oriental College. I am speaking of one district; there may be other centres in other districts where similar examinations and training might be prescribed for pandits. This involves the same amount of training as in the case of secondary-grade teachers. The secondary-grade teachers are appointed as school assistants. Now that there is a cry that the medium of instruction should be through vernacular I do not see any reason why these pandits should be placed on a different footing from other teachers. With these words, I heartily support the motion."

* Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, I move the amendment that stands in my name, namely, between 'schools' in line 2, and 'be given' in line 3, the following words be substituted: 'and possessing the same general educational qualification'.

"As my hon. Friend Mr. Muniswami Nayudu said, many of these pandits and munshis are not inferior to other teachers. They are as proficient in the vernaculars or in the classical languages taught by them as are the other professors and assistants in a Government college or high school. But my object in making this motion is that those who are appointed as pandits should possess some general qualifications. I know that at present the tendency is to appoint as pandits and munshis gentlemen who in addition to possessing a Vidwan title or a certificate from the Madura Tamil Sangham are also graduates. But many schools employ as pandits and munshis on a

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very small pay gentlemen who have a good knowledge of vernaculars or of oriental languages but are absolutely ignorant of English. The result is discipline suffers. I may give one instance. The pandit does not understand English and if a notice or circular comes to him, he merely initials it and passes it on; if some mischievous student asks him 'Kindly tell us what the notice says or at least give us the substance of it'. The teacher in such case will look small in the eyes of his pupils. I have personal experience of such cases. There is also another reason why we should insist upon a general educational qualification. First of all, the University has made provision for higher studies in vernacular languages and also in classical languages in the B.A. Honours—Group VI. Although provision has been made for higher studies in these languages, I know this group is not at all popular. Very few colleges, probably, two out of so many, have provided for instruction being imparted in this group; and if we consider the number of students taking the languages group, I think this may be counted on one's fingers' ends. If we insist upon a general educational qualification, there is every likelihood of more students taking this group in the hope of being appointed pandits or readers in the University. Again, Sir, in order to do justice to these vernacular languages and even classical languages and teach them very efficiently, it is necessary that a pandit or a munshi, what ever his special qualification may be, should be conversant with all the critical literature that is extant on those subjects. Sir, India is no longer an isolated country. Vernacular and oriental languages are being studied in foreign universities and many criticisms are written on many vernacular and oriental works in all these seats of learning. If one listens to lectures such as those delivered by my Friend, Dr. Krishnaswami Ayyangar, one can understand the necessity for studying the criticisms on our oriental works made by other nations for studying these works on the lines of modern criticism and modern research. In order therefore to make the subject interesting and to enable students to engage themselves in research work, surely a pandit or munshi must read all this literature, all articles appearing in the various journals devoted to oriental studies. So this only postulates the need for our insistence on this general educational qualification.

"Again, Sir, translation is an important test—translation from English into vernacular or classical language or translation from vernacular or classical language into English. This is an important test in this respect, namely, not only it tests the pupil's ability to give the substance of what is in the vernacular, but it also tests the student's ability to find out the exact equivalents for words and bring out the diction, the melody and harmony of the original into the language into which he is translating. So in order to prepare the students satisfactorily, insistence ought to be made on this general educational qualification. I think this will entail no hardship on the pandits and munshis. Exceptions may be made if necessary in the case of one or two pandits. So, if this amendment is carried, not only the position and status of these pandits will be raised but also a great impetus will be given to the study of vernacular, or oriental or classical languages in this country, a consummation to be devoutly wished for by all hon. Members in this House."

(The amendment was not seconded.)

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"For want of a seconder, the amendment falls through.

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"The hon. Member Mr. A.B. Shetty has given notice of an amendment very late. The amendment runs thus: In line 3, *for* the words 'the same pay and status as' *substitute* the words 'higher scales of pay than at present and that the relation in the scales of pay to be in the same proportion as in the case of'. Does any hon. Member object? (After a pause) Since no hon. Member objects, Mr. Shetty may move his amendment."

* Mr. A. B. SHETTY:—"I beg leave to move the amendment which runs as follows:—

'*In line* 3, *for the words* "the same pay and status as" *substitute the words* "higher scales of pay than at present and that the relation in the scales of pay to be in the same proportion as in the case of".'

"Sir, the demand contained in this resolution as amended by me becomes more modest and reasonable and also more easily acceptable. The complaint is not only that the scales of pay are low but also that there are too many grades which further minimise the scope for promotion. The pandits and munshis employed in first and second grade colleges have the same educational qualifications. Therefore there should be no difference between pandits and munshis serving in first and second grade colleges, just as there is no difference among college assistants whether they serve in first grade or second grade colleges. Further the high school pandits and munshis must have the same maximum pay as college pandits and munshis, just as it is in the case of school and college assistants. I submit the following proposal for the consideration of this House as well as of the hon. Minister, viz., that the first and second grade college pandits and munshis may be given the scale of Rs 75 to Rs. 125 and that the high school pandits and munshis may be given the scale of Rs. 50 to Rs. 125."

Mr. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI:—"I second it."

12-15 p.m. * The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The amendment is for the discussion of the House. I take it that the House is ready for a vote on the amendment."

* The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"I hope you will have no objection to my speaking on the amendment as well as on the main resolution."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I think it will be more convenient to the House to dispose of the amendment first."

The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN:—"Now, taking only the amendment, i.e., the one proposed by Mr. Shetty I must say that makes the case a more reasonable one than the motion of my hon Friend Mr. Muniswami Nayudu from Chittoor. The scale of these pandits and munshis was fixed in the year 1921-22 on the recommendation of the Reforms Commissioner, Sir Arthur Knapp. Before that the pay was only Rs. 30 to Rs. 40 plus a temporary allowance of Rs. 10 or Rs. 12. On a motion of my hon. Friend Mr. Kesava Pillai in the Legislative Council in 1911 the pay was raised to Rs 100 and again that was raised again by the recommendation of the Reforms Commissioner, which pay remains the same now. I brought it to the notice of the Director of Public Instruction after a motion of this kind was moved on the budget debate last financial year and then the Director of Public Instruction pointed out that if teachers of vernacular languages are to be given the same pay as school or college assistants, it may be necessary to insist on their possessing identical qualifications, which I see was brought forward as an amendment by my hon. Friend Mr. Arpudaswami Udayar which unfortunately had to be dropped for want of a seconder. As long as the men with the existing

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qualifications are recruited there is something to be said in favour of differentiation of salaries, but in the future it may become increasingly necessary to recruit graduates as vernacular teachers for both secondary schools and colleges. With the introduction of compulsory vernacular in colleges the whole question of the employment of men with merely pandit qualifications will have to be carefully considered and this can only be done in the light of experience afforded by the working of the new system. As a matter of fact, it has been found difficult to get pandits for the Queen Mary's College because they wanted women pandits. They have employed two graduates as teachers for both Tamil and Telugu in the Queen Mary's College, and they are being treated not as pandits but as college assistants and are paid the same scale of salary as other teachers in the Subordinate Educational Service. When we know the result of that experiment and when we know that the standard of teaching has not suffered in any way by the employment of these people, it may become necessary, even in colleges, as the Director of Public Instruction has pointed out, to employ graduate teachers with qualifications, especially as there is an outcry both on the floor of this House and outside that the whole education should be vernacularised and even the administration, as pointed out by my hon. Friend Mr. Muniswami Nayudu. I quite agree that these pandits possess a higher knowledge than these graduates, but I would say this: however learned a pandit may be, they to a great extent lack the critical faculty that is found in graduate teachers. I think it will be a great advantage if graduate teachers can be employed, but in view of what has been said by my hon. Friend Mr. Shetty I am quite willing to have this matter considered along with the revision of the pay of Deputy Inspectors and the college assistants which is being taken under consideration now and to see that these people are put on a better scale of pay than they are at present getting."

Mr. A. B. SHETTY :—"In view of the assurance given by the hon Minister, I do not wish to press the amendment."

The amendment was by leave withdrawn.

Rao Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—"I wanted to say something on the amendment and now that Mr. Shetty has withdrawn I don't wish to speak on it."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"What about the main motion ?"

Rao Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—"As the hon the Minister was allowed to speak only on the amendment, I wish to speak after the Chief. Minister has spoken on the main motion."

* The hon. Dr. P. SUBBARAYAN :—"I have said what I had to say on the motion when I spoke on the amendment, because in a way most of the facts that I wished to place before the House were then mentioned. As I said already in view of what has been said on the floor of this House, I would consider in what way the pay of these pandits and munshis could be made better than it is to-day and that would be taken into consideration along with the revision of the pay of school assistants and college assistants. I hope with this assurance my hon. Friend will withdraw his motion."

Rao Bahadur B. MUNISWAMI NAYUDU :—"I shall withdraw the motion, Sir."

The motion was by leave of the House withdrawn.